

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and

U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr. Statistics
and

Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 2/8/49 11:00 a.m.

Week Ending 2/7/49

WEATHER January was cold and stormy. The average precipitation was the greatest of record. A severe blizzard with northerly gales and very heavy snow which drifted badly overspread the northwestern half of the State on the 2nd-5th, while the eastern portion received the heaviest rain of record for January. Moderate to heavy freezing rain occurred over the southeastern portion of the State on the 22nd-23rd and a severe snowstorm of near blizzard intensity covered the south-central and eastern portions of the State on the 27th-28th. Mean temperatures were the lowest since January 1937 in the west and since 1940 in the central and east portions.

Cold weather with light local snow flurries occurred during the week.

CROPS Except for caring for livestock, farm work is still at a standstill. State, Federal agencies and the Army have made progress in getting roads opened to farms and ranches enabling cattle to get access to hay and forage. The 6 percent of corn that is unhusked will have to wait until spring. Considerable of the unhusked corn is being taken by wild life. Some counties are still reporting considerable concern over the outcome of winter wheat that was covered with ice. College authorities placed some wheat in the greenhouse that had been covered with an inch or more of ice, and inside of a week the plants had made good growth, indicating so far that wheat may not be damaged. Standing water from the heavy snows and ice after the thaw may kill wheat in the low places. Past experience so far has not revealed any serious loss of wheat from ice coating and it looks as if there may not be much damage this year despite the prolonged period that ice remained on the wheat.

Floods may cause considerable trouble if the snow disappears rapidly. Snowfall since November 18 generally ranges from around a minimum of 20 inches to 73 inches. Snowfall was heavier in the northern third of the State. The heaviest snow for the above period in northeastern Nebraska was in eastern Knox County with 71 inches, and Sheridan and central Cherry counties each had 73 inches. Snow drifted badly and many reports indicate that snow blew off the wheat fields. Regardless, the unusually large amount of snow, when melted, will cause a lot of runoff and possibly some floods, depending on the rapidity of the thaw.

LIVESTOCK Efforts on the part of State, Federal agencies and the Army have made progress in bringing relief throughout the disaster area. It is hoped that substantially higher temperatures will set the old snow so that it will stop drifting, which has made bad matters much worse.

While definite information on the loss of livestock will not be available until later, various sources indicate that they may range from 3 to 5 percent. Individual losses, however, have been very severe in a number of cases. More concern is expressed over losses between now and the arrival of grass because of the lowered vitality of the cattle. Also the weakened condition of cows may bring a higher mortality in the calf crop. Injury to udders from freezing is also a question.

Most of the counties are commenting on possible shortage of hay and forage. Prices of hay have advanced; however one note of optimism is the fact that there is considerable range that will be available for cattle as soon as the snow disappears. There was a good growth of range of which very little has been used for nearly three months because of being covered by snow.

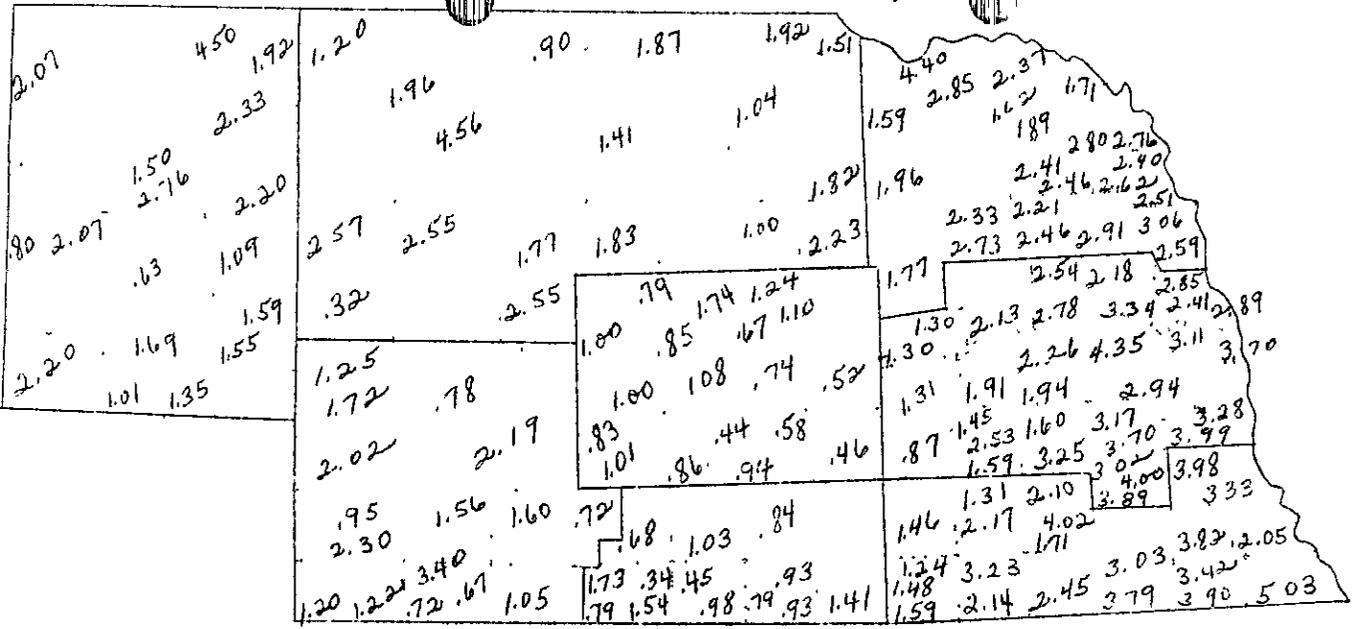
The marked drop in the price of fat cattle is causing heavy losses. Feeder cattle were purchased at a high level and the present drop in price is severe. Difficulty in getting satisfactory gains because of the severe weather has added to the loss in finishing cattle. Blocked roads held back hogs that should have been marketed a month or more ago, which has also caused loss. (Issued by the Weather Bureau and the State and Federal Departments of Agriculture.)

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 7, 1949

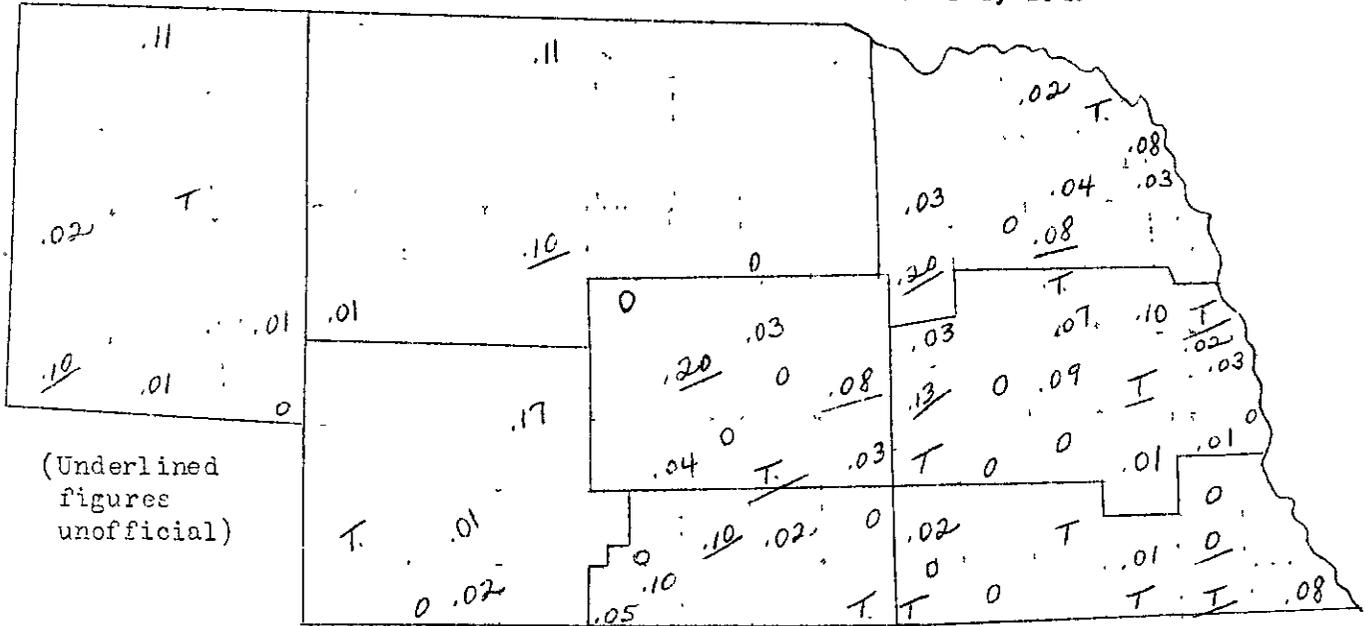
1400-2-8-49

<u>Eastern Division</u>		<u>Central Division</u>		<u>Western Division</u>	
Grand Island	.01	Burwell	0	Chadron	0
Lincoln	.01	North Platte	0	Hayes Center	0
Norfolk	0	Valentine	0	Scottsbluff	0
Omaha	.01			Sidney	.01
Sioux City	.04				

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1948

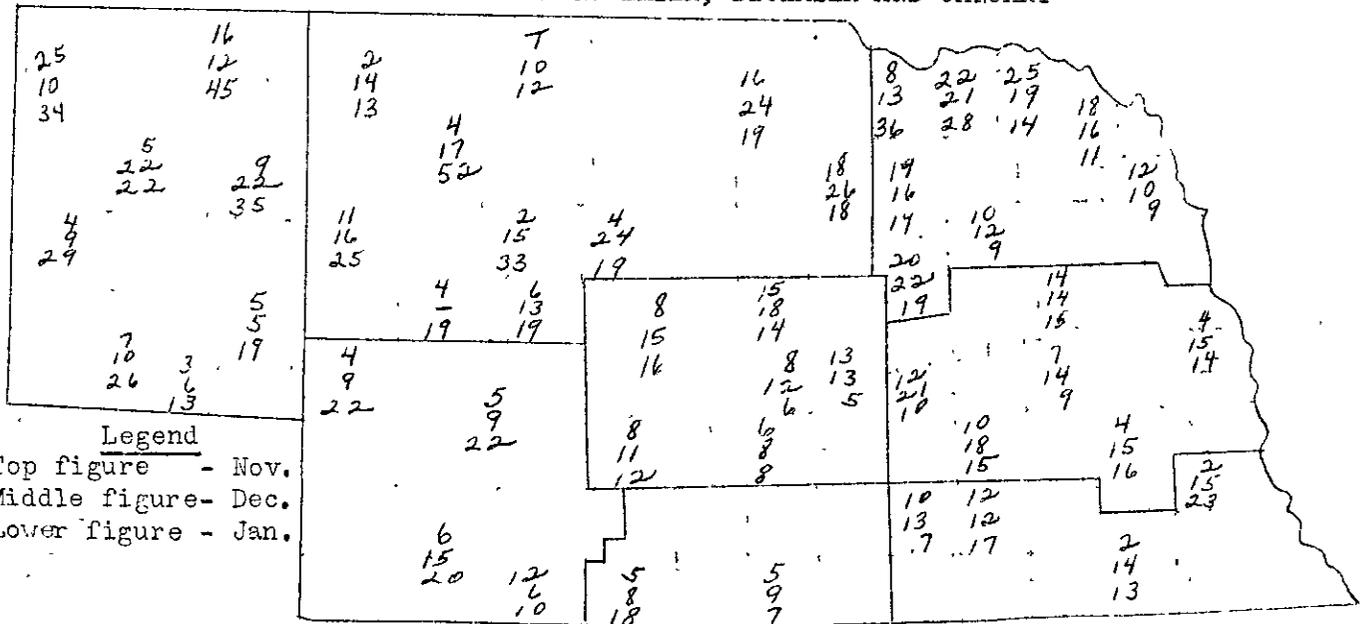


PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1949



(Underlined figures unofficial)

SNOWFALL MAP FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY



Legend

Top figure - Nov.
Middle figure - Dec.
Lower figure - Jan.

HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (For 24 hrs. ending 6:30 a.m.)

		Feb. 1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th		6th		7th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	23	-4	14	9	26	-16	14	-15	26	-1	31	-1	24	7
	Scottsbluff	19	-12	14	0	22	-11	21	-1	27	3	31	-4	31	25
	Sidney	19	--	20	10	28	-2	30	3	28	4	36	-1	28	7
N-C	Burwell	24	-8	8	-13	20	0	10	-16	17	-10	25	-2	26	9
	Valentine	22	2	8	-4	25	-8	13	-5	33	4	34	-4	24	12
NE	Norfolk	35	-1	9	-17	15	4	15	-15	17	2	27	5	17	13
	Sioux City	--	--	7	-17	15	8	16	-15	13	-17	27	5	14	-2
Gen.	Grand Island	28	5	11	-6	23	14	22	-9	19	12	29	5	26	14
E-C	Lincoln	29	9	16	-4	28	22	29	-1	19	12	27	11	29	17
	Omaha	31	3	12	-12	23	18	25	-6	16	10	29	11	28	9
SW	Hayes Center	26	--	26	4	24	9	19	2	15	10	27	10	26	12
	North Platte	25	-1	11	-3	24	6	16	-2	28	-1	29	8	29	7